

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Postal, Telephone, and Telegraph Service in the Ch'ongjin Area, North Korea	DATE DISTR.	30 November 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. In the Ch'ongjin (N 41-47, E 129-49)(EB6826) area, stamps can be purchased and letters mailed in state-operated department stores, consumers' guild stores, and in the post office. There are no other mail-boxes. In Kyongsong (N 41-40, E 129-41)(EB5713) four mailmen are employed by the government to deliver mail and to make all newspaper deliveries. There are no private distributors. These mailmen walk their routes. Their blue cotton uniforms consist of schoolboy-type caps and student jackets and trousers. 25X1
2. Personal mail is commonly written on stationery of the letter-in-envelope type on folding postcards which can be sealed, or on ordinary postcards. Both types of postcards cost 10 won. The cost of stationery, which is plentiful, varies according to quality. A stamp for a personal letter costs 10 won. Stamps do not have glue on the back. A letter from P'yongyang takes four or five days to reach Ch'ongjin while one from Hwanghae Province takes about two weeks to reach Kyongsong.¹ Mail from P'yongyang as well as all foreign mail is openly censored.
3. Prior to the Korean war, Ch'ongjin had a dial telephone system, but in 1954 all telephones were of the hand-crank type. There are very few private telephones in the area. Usually the only telephones are in government offices. The only public telephones in the Kyongsong area are in the post office. It is unusual for a private individual to use the telephone in Kyongsong. A call from Kyongsong to Nanam (N 41-43, E 129-41)(EB5718) costs 30 won. Telephone directories have not been observed in the area, and when one desires to place a call, he must ask for the number from the operators, who are female government employees.

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4. Telegraph facilities are available in the local post offices. The telegraph form costs one won, and each Chinese character, including the address and the signature, costs three won. Telegrams are usually delivered by the postman on foot the same day they are sent. The telegraph system is more popular in North Korea than the telephone and is especially widely used by merchants.

 Comment. In July 1954 when floods disrupted all transportation in North Korea, it was reported that government civilian aircraft would transport the mail.

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